

Understanding the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

On one occasion, while Jesus was eating with his disciples, He gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John truly baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit... but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:4-5, 8

1. Jesus makes it clear that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from salvation and water baptism.

In salvation, every believer is born again by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells in us. Ephesians 1:13 says, Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit. A seal in Bible days represented ownership. The Holy Spirit in us represents the fact that we belong to God.

Therefore, if you are saved, you do not have to seek the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence because He lives and abides in you. However, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from salvation that every believer should seek and receive.

John the Baptist said in Matthew 3:11, I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come One who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter said in Acts 2:38-39, Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-for all whom the Lord our God will call.

2. Jesus makes it clear that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift to you from the Father.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is one of many gifts that God has given us.

Ephesians 2:8

Romans 5:17

Romans 6:23

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Ephesians 4:11

Acts 1:4

The gift of salvation

The gift of righteousness

The gift of eternal life

The gifts of the Spirit

The 5-fold Ministry Gifts

The gift of The Holy Spirit

We should receive and partake of every gift God has given us. We do not have to be afraid of any gift that God wants to give us. James 1:17 says, Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father...

3. When you receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, you receive a supernatural language and a supernatural power.

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues as the spirit enables them.

Acts 19:1-6 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed... When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Acts 4:33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

Acts 5:12-16 The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people... Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

4. The Bible gives several reasons why it is important for believers to pray in tongues.

a. When you pray in tongues, you pray directly to God from your spirit. This is your very own personal prayer language in which you can pray and communicate with God.

1 Corinthians 14:2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.

b. When you pray in tongues, you are spiritually edified and strengthened.

1 Corinthians 14:4 he who speaks in tongues edifies himself...

c. When you pray in tongues, you magnify and praise God from your spirit.

Acts 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.
(New King James Bible)

- d. **John 4:23-24** Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.
- e. **When you pray in tongues, you pray Spirit-directed prayers. The Holy Spirit directs your prayers according to the perfect will of God.**
Romans 8:26-27 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

5. Five steps to receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

a. You must be born again.

John 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

b. You must believe that it is for you.

Acts 2:39 The promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.

Acts 2:17-18 In the last days, God says, I will pour out my spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

c. You must desire the gift of The Holy Spirit.

John 7:37-39 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; because the Holy Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (New King James Bible)

d. You must ask for it.

Luke 11:13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in Heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

e. You must do the speaking.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them.

Isaiah 28:11-12 For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to his people, to whom he said, "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest." and, "This is the refreshing." (New King James Bible)

The Holy Spirit will not talk through your mouth. You will do the speaking. You will sense the Holy Spirit giving you the utterance, but you have to take a step of faith and speak forth what the Holy Spirit gives you in tongues. It may sound strange to you, but allow that supernatural language to flow out of you.

You have to remember that you cannot speak two languages at one time. Begin to worship God out of your heart in your own language, and then stop speaking your native language and begin speaking in tongues. Pray in your prayer language every day.

6. There is a difference between the Gift of tongues and a believer's personal prayer language.

1 Corinthians 12:4, 8-11

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit... To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

This Gift of Tongues is one of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit that is given to believers as the Spirit determines. It is when the Holy Spirit gives a believer a message in tongues to a congregation or body of believers, and it is always accompanied by the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues. The same person or another person will understand what the Holy Spirit is saying and will speak the interpretation. It is not a direct translation, but an interpretation.

It should always strengthen, encourage, and comfort believers. Every believer functions in the Gift of Tongues. (See 1 Corinthians 14)

Prayer Language Compared to Gift of Tongues

Prayer Language

**Speak to God
Speak Mysteries
Edify Yourself
No Interpretation
For Believers**

Gift of Tongues

**Speak to Man
Message is Understood
Edifies the Church
Interpretation Needed
Sign to Unbelievers**

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